# A range extension for Dusky-tailed Flatbill Ramphotrigon fuscicauda in eastern Amazonia

### by Marcelo Ferreira de Vasconcelos

Received 23 December 2004

Dusky-tailed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda* is a rare and poorly known Amazonian flycatcher (Parker 1984, Ridgely & Tudor 1994). Until recently, it was believed to be restricted to western Amazonia and adjacent Andean foothills (Parker 1984), but subsequent records extended its range eastward (Parker *et al.* 1997, Zimmer *et al.* 1997, Whittaker & Oren 1999, Aleixo *et al.* 2000).

In Brazil, there are only six known localities: Alta Floresta (09°41'S, 55°54'W), in northern Mato Grosso; Carajás (06°00'S, 51°20'W), Pará; Alegria (08°57'S, 72°25'W), Acre; Quieto (09°00'S, 72°49'W), Acre; Pinkaiti (07°46'S, 51°58'W), Pará; and Catuaba (10°04'S, 67°37'W), Acre (Parker *et al.* 1997, Zimmer *et al.* 1997, Whittaker & Oren 1999, Aleixo *et al.* 2000, Guilherme *et al.* 2003). Here, I report a range extension for this species in eastern Amazonia.

On 6 August 2004, I heard a typical whistled call of a *Ramphotrigon* flycatcher in an upland forest (*terra firme*) fragment in Marabá municipality (05°39'S, 49°28'W), south-east Pará, Brazil. The bird was in a forest edge, close to a dirt road, with many vines and tangles in the mid-storey. Bamboos were rare, with just scattered individuals of *Olyra* sp. in the understorey. I tape-recorded the bird and in response to playback it approached several times, being observed for *c*.20 minutes, enabling me to confirm identification as Dusky-tailed Flatbill. The bird perched on thin horizontal branches or vines, generally 3–4 m above ground. Following playback, the individual vocalised a variant of the whistled call more frequently and, after some minutes, gave a whistled song similar to that described by Guilherme *et al.* (2003). No agitated behaviour, including wing or tail movements was noted. The vocalisations were very similar to those presented by others (Parker 1984, Schulenberg *et al.* 2000, Guilherme *et al.* 2003). Copies of vocalisations have been deposited at the Arquivo Sonoro Prof. Elias Coelho (ASEC), Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This is the easternmost record for Dusky-tailed Flatbill, the closest locality being Carajás, c.200 km to the west (Paynter & Traylor 1991, Whittaker & Oren 1999). My record also emphasises that this flatbill is not restricted to bamboo-rich understorey, but also occurs in vine-rich areas (without bamboo) in both the understorey of *terra firme* forest and in vine-rich floodplain forests without bamboo (Parker 1984, Terborgh *et al.* 1984, Whittaker & Oren 1999.). Given that the species has been found from western Amazonia to the left bank of the rio Tocantins, it is probable that it will be recorded elsewhere in Amazonian Brazil in suitable habitat (see Aleixo *et al.* 2000).

#### Acknowledgements

I thank Sete Soluções e Tecnologia Ambiental for supporting my field work. Márcio de Souza Werneck accompanied me in the field and Marcos Maldonado-Coelho helped to obtain references.

#### References:

- Aleixo, A., Whitney, B. M. & Oren, D. C. 2000. Range extensions of birds in southeastern Amazonia. *Wilson Bull.* 112: 137–142.
- Guilherme, E., Nobre, H. R. & Gonzaga, L. P. 2003. The first record of the avian near-obligate bamboo specialist Dusky-tailed Flatbill (*Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*) in the [sic] eastern Acre state, Brazil. *Lundiana* 4: 157–159.
- Parker, T. A. 1984. Notes on the behavior of Ramphotrigon flycatchers. Auk 101: 186–188.
- Parker, T. A., Stotz. D. F. & Fitzpatrick, J. W. 1997. Notes on avian bamboo specialists in southwestern Amazonian Brazil. Pp. 543–547 in Remsen, J. V. (ed.) Studies in Neotropical ornithology honoring Ted Parker. Orn. Monogr. 48.
- Paynter, R. A. & Traylor, M. A. 1991. Ornithological gazetteer of Brazil. Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge, MA.
- Ridgely, R. S. & Tudor, G. 1994. The birds of South America, vol. 2. Univ. Texas Press, Austin.
- Schulenberg, T. S., Marantz, C. A. & English, P. H. 2000. *Voices of Amazonian birds*, vol. 3. Cornell Lab. of Orn., Ithaca, NY.
- Terborgh, J., Fitzpatrick, J. W. & Emmons, L. 1984. Annotated checklist of birds and mammal species of Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru. *Fieldiana*, *Zool*. 21: 1–29.
- Whittaker, A. & Oren, D. C. 1999. Important ornithological records from the Rio Juruá, western Amazonia, including twelve additions to the Brazilian avifauna. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 119: 235–260.
- Zimmer, K. J., Parker, T. A., Isler, M. L. & Isler, P. R. 1997. Survey of a southern Amazonian avifauna: the Alta Floresta region. Mato Grosso, Brazil. Pp. 887–918 in Remsen, J. V. (ed.) Studies in Neotropical ornithology honoring Ted Parker. Orn. Monogr. 48.
- Address: Coleção Ornitológica, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, CP 486, CEP 30123-970, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

© British Ornithologists' Club 2005

## The eggs of Corvus tristis and Corvus moneduloides

by Michael Walters

Received 6 January 2005

#### Corvus tristis

Goodwin (1976, 1986) described two eggs of this species, the only two he had seen, and his comments were evidently followed in good faith by Madge & Burn (1994) as a valid description of the species' eggs. The eggs in question are in The Natural History Museum (NHM, Tring), but their provenance is highly suspect. They were purchased at Stevens' Sale Rooms, in 1862, where they had been identified as being of *Manucodia atra* (=*M. nigra*; Paradisaeidae), and were stated to have been taken in Mysol (=Misool) in the western Papuan chain. They were registered